



STALKE OUT OF SPACE

Space Fang Space

Einar Thorsteinn

Stalke Galleri
Vesterbrogade 184

04.03.05 to 08.04.05

It was with great pleasure that Stalke Galleri presented the exhibition SPACE FANG SPACE by Einar Thorsteinn.

Thorsteinn (b. 1942, Reykjavik) had a formal education as an architect, and his career was characterized by pursuits within aesthetics and mathematics, although his approach to these fields was far from traditional. Thorsteinn was a pioneer of experimental architecture, developing dome-cube systems, sustainable constructions, and ecological buildings. While much of his work had practical outcomes, a significant part of his research also focused on the theoretical definition of space and on how the human mind perceives reality.

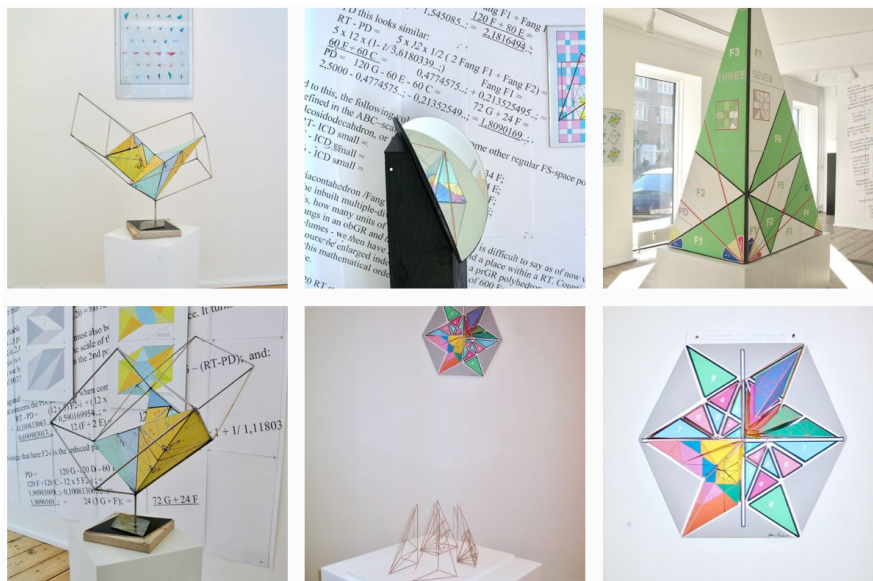
These theoretical investigations led Thorsteinn from architecture into art. Developments within both art and architecture over the past three decades had brought the two disciplines closer together, making it increasingly difficult to define where architecture ended and art began. While art is often perceived as theoretical and opposed to the practical reality of architecture, Thorsteinn argued that reality is as plural as theory, and that aesthetics are found not only in visual art but also in the mathematics of architecture and geometry.

Thorsteinn worked with a specialized field of geometry concerned with five-fold symmetry space, proposing a new definition of geometric space. Symbols of five-fold symmetry included the pentagon, the golden ratio, fractals, and the fang. The fang, which gave the exhibition its title, represented a new way of defining and understanding space. Whereas traditional architecture was based on four-fold symmetry spaces characterized by boxes and right angles, nature—such as crystal formations—also grows in five-fold symmetry. Just as the cube corresponds to four-fold symmetry space, the fang corresponded to five-fold symmetry space. Both shared two unique properties: when packed together they formed a compact mass without gaps, and when divided or expanded in specific ways, they reproduced themselves, behaving like fractals.

With this exhibition, Thorsteinn posed the question: Is it possible to find aesthetics in mathematics? Through the exhibited works, he presented a new way of defining five-fold symmetry space and, more broadly, a new way of constructing space itself. By emphasizing that multiple definitions of space imply multiple definitions of reality, Thorsteinn sought to challenge conventional concepts of reality and present alternative realities in aesthetic form. The exhibition invited the viewer to participate in this investigation, positioning the exhibition as a starting point for discussion rather than a definitive conclusion. While four-fold symmetry represented one established way of defining space, the fang and five-fold symmetry presented in SPACE FANG SPACE suggested an entirely new way of perceiving reality.



The opening, Einar Thorstein to the right



Exhibition views and sculptural works from SPACE FANG SPACE (2004) by Einar Thorstein at Stalke Galleri, exploring five-fold symmetry, geometry and spatial construction.